

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1157 without my signature.

This bill would prohibit health insurance policies from excluding coverage for medical expenses incurred from alcohol and other drug related injuries and/or illnesses.

I encourage the healthcare profession to conduct screenings and offer counseling and intervention services for drug and alcohol abuse. However, coverage of services for injuries incurred due to alcohol and drug use should be available, but not mandated. It is important to give people coverage choices so that they may purchase health insurance products that suit their individual needs.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger